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PASS To Posts

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NO.

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AIR POUCH

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : DHAHRAN CHUSMTM COMIDEASTFOR
USMTM AIR FORCE SECTION USMTM ARMY SECTION

DEPT PASS: See list of posts below

FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: November 29, 1963

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 47

REF.

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POLITICAL

1. Death of President Kennedy

MILITARY

Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Assassination of President Kennedy

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals

Declassified after 12 years

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by:

RWMurphy/CEMarthinsen:lf 11-26-63

Contents and Classification Approved by:

NGThacher, Counselor of Embassy

Clearances:

REVIEWED BY: [Signature] DATE: 10/14/82
RDS for XDSJ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S) ☐
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POLITICAL

DECLASSIFIED

1. Death of President Kennedy. Fullest possible press and radio coverage given to details assassination and eulogies President Kennedy. In addition, personal visits to Ambassador by wide range Saudi citizens and officials included such prominent individuals as former Finance Minister Abdulla Sulayman, Princes Muhammad and Abdulla bin Faysal, Minister of Information Hujaylan and Deputy Foreign Minister Saqqaf. Genuineness of condolence expressions was unmistakable. Chancery was host to many other Saudis who have never before entered Embassy grounds. Memorial service for President Kennedy November 25 was attended by 300 members of Jidda's American community. SAG delegated Dr. Rashad Pharaon, confident of Crown Prince and present head of its UN delegation, to represent it at funeral.

Crown Prince Faysal's telegrams of condolence were warm tributes expressive of uniquely close relationship Crown Prince felt had developed with late President. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Assassination of President Kennedy. President's assassination captured headlines, front pages of all Saudi newspapers, received voluminous coverage over radio Mecca. Current news reports from wireless services, USIS wireless file, USIS backrounders prepared by office of PAO all received prominent placement. Expressions of condolences sent to Mrs. Kennedy, President Johnson, and others of Administration, from King Saud, Crown Prince Faysal, other SAG leaders, reproduced in entirety in press. Editorial comment extensive, manifesting sincerely touching sympathy of Saudi leaders and public; assassination termed "stunning calamity," "grievous loss." Callers, including Saudis all walks of life, stressed that death of President was "singular tragedy," a "burden" which all peoples of world share with Americans. Radio Mecca commented late President "gave America his sweat and life blood; tears he left for bereaved humanity to shed for him."

Still-novel cartoonists, especially al-Bilad's Gaaly, produced dignified tributes to late President. Who died "in the line of duty."

Jarring note was editorial published in Riyadh's al-Yamamah November 25 in which editor, Zayd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Fayyad, commented that mourning, profound sorrow of Arabs not suitable for man who led country friendly to Israel; US position on causes of Palestine, Kashmir, Somalia and Oman are not pro-Arab or pro-Muslim; assassination is regrettable, but outpouring of sorrow in Arab countries not appropriate.

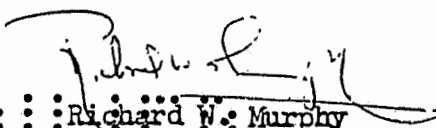
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Events following President's death, including capture of Oswald and his subsequent murder fully covered. But report that Jack (Rab) Rubenstein, assassin's killer, is apparently of Jewish faith; spurred anti-Zionist editorial slant; al-Bilad, November 26 headlined "Oswald's Killer Zionist!", same paper's cartoonist caricatured "bloody Zionist involvement" in assassination and subsequent events.

Overwhelming balance of opinion and personal reaction among Saudi public was sense of personal loss and grief. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:


Richard W. Murphy
Second Secretary of Embassy

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